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News Release ~ Communiqué

The Monument Lefebvre designated a national historical site

SAINT-JOSEPH-DE-MEMRAMCOOK, N.B., AUG. 16, 1994 Michel Dupuy, Minister of Canadian Heritage, today announced his decision to recognize the national historic significance of Monument Lefebvre. The decision was based on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

During a ceremony honouring the memory of Father Camille Lefebvre, Mr. Dupuy noted that educational activities at the Monument Lefebvre have also contributed greatly to the renaissance of the Acadian culture since 1897.

Following the death of the educator in 1895, people wanted to perpetuate his memory by erecting a building next to Saint Joseph's College. Named the Monument Lefebvre, its classes and laboratories were used by students. The monument, with its renowned auditorium, is also used for educational sessions, public debates, concerts, theatre performances and national congresses.

Minister Dupuy also announced the transfer of the ownership of Monument Lefebvre from the Department of Public Works and Government Services of Canada to the Department of Canadian Heritage. This should facilitate a future agreement with an Acadian organization for part of the building's management.

The building currently contains a Parks Canada exhibition entitled The Acadian Odyssey and an auditorium to present concerts and plays, some of which are recorded by la Société Radio-Canada.

A plaque will soon be put up to mark the new official commemoration. Plaques of Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recognize the importance of people, sites and events of Canadian history and architecture.

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